

Commissioners of St. Mary's County Meeting Minutes (Tuesday, April 21, 2020)
Generated by Julie Burch on Thursday, April 23, 2020

Members present

Commissioner President James R. Guy
Commissioner Eric Colvin
Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt
Commissioner Todd B. Morgan
Commissioner John E. O'Connor (Via Teleconference)
Dr. Rebecca Bridgett, County Administrator

1. WELCOME

Commissioner President Guy called the business meeting of the Commissioners of St. Mary's County to order at 9:01 a.m. in the Chesapeake Building Meeting Room, Governmental Center.

Approval of Consent Agenda

I move to approve the Consent Agenda, which contains the Minutes of April 7, 2020, as presented.

Motion by Commissioner Eric Colvin, second by Commissioner Todd B. Morgan.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Morgan, O'Connor

MOTION TO ADJOURN AS COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY

MOTION: I move to adjourn as the Commissioners of St. Mary's County and reconvene as the St. Mary's County Board of Health.

Motion by Commissioner Eric Colvin, second by Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, O'Connor

2. ST. MARY'S COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

A. BOARD OF HEALTH

Present: Dr. Meenakshi Brewster, St. Mary's County Health Officer

Dr. Brewster provided an update on COVID-19. She commented that the efforts of residents social distancing and disease containment are making an impact with the rate of increases in new cases. We are expecting less of a demand on the health care system than originally anticipated;

however, we are planning for more of a demand. There is a continuing concern of asymptomatic transmission. Dr. Brewster encouraged citizens to continue to social distance and use face coverings as required. The Governor has received additional COVID-19 testing kits and we are working on strategies to expand test availabilities in the county. Our collective actions are making a difference and saving lives in our county.

MOTION TO ADJOURN AS BOARD OF HEALTH

I move to adjourn as St. Mary's County Board of Health and reconvene as the Commissioners of St. Mary's County.

Motion by Commissioner Eric Colvin, second by Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioner President James R. Guy, Commissioner Eric Colvin, Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner John E. O'Connor

Not Present at Vote: Commissioner Todd B. Morgan

3. PUBLIC HEARING

A. DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE - Public Hearing - Supplemental Appropriation Ordinance

Commissioner President Guy opened the Public Hearing at approximately 9:35 a.m.

Present: Jeannett Cudmore, Chief Financial Officer

Notice of Public Hearing was published in *The Enterprise* on April 10, 2020.

A public hearing was held to obtain public comment on the proposed Ordinance to authorize a \$3 Million supplemental appropriation for Emergency Expenditures for COVID-19 from the unapplied FY2019 fund balance.

Commissioner President Guy opened the meeting for Public Comment.

Public Comments were given by:

Cynthia Jones, 46241 Asher Lane, Valley Lee, MD

Commissioner President Guy closed the public hearing for public comment and closed the public hearing at 9:44 a.m.

MOTION: I move to approve the Ordinance authorizing the \$3 million supplemental appropriation for Emergency Expenditures for COVID-19 and authorize the Commissioner President to sign all related documents.

Motion by Commissioner Eric Colvin, second by Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Morgan, O'Connor

4. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

A. DRAFT AGENDAS FOR APRIL 28 AND MAY 5, 2020.

B. DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES - Correctional Officer Position Conversion

I move to approve the Sheriff's Office request to convert eight (8) vacant Correctional Officer positions as Civilian Main Control Operator positions; with four (4) advertised immediately and the remaining four (4) advertised in the fall of 2020; and to convert one (1) vacant Correctional Officer position as an Offender Re-entry Case Manager position as presented.

Motion by Commissioner Eric Colvin, second by Commissioner Todd B. Morgan.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Morgan, O'Connor

C. DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES - Employee Benefit Plan Change Requests

I move to approve amending the CareFirst contract so that effective April 1, 2020, dependents turning age 26 may remain on the health plan through 12/31/2020; and amending the 457(b) Deferred Retirement Plan to incorporate the optional Coronavirus related distributions and the loan provisions of the CARES Act effective March 27, 2020; and authorize the Commissioner President to execute the related documents.

Motion by Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt, second by Commissioner Eric Colvin.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Morgan, O'Connor

D. DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS - National Accreditation

I move to approve the Department of Recreation and Parks FY2020 – FY2024 Strategic Plan as notified and authorize the submission of the initial accreditation application provided there are sufficient funds in the FY22 budget.

Motion by Commissioner Eric Colvin, second by Commissioner Todd B. Morgan.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Morgan, O'Connor

E. DEPARTMENT OF AGING & HUMAN SERVICES - New FY2020 Families First Coronavirus Response Act Grant Awards, Projects US2023 & US2024

I move to approve the Families First Coronavirus Response Act supplemental grant awards COVID19 CMC2, Project #US2023 and COVID19 HDC2, Project #US2024, from Maryland Department of Aging on behalf of the Department of Aging & Human Services in the amount of \$9,808 and \$49,037 respectively for the purpose of supporting home delivered meal services during the COVID-19 emergency, the related budget amendment to set up both project budgets, and authorize the Commissioner President to execute the related documents.

Motion by Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt, second by Commissioner Eric Colvin.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Morgan, O'Connor

F. DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE - Budget Amendments to Close-out and/or Realign various CIP Projects and Change Order approval

I move to approve and authorize the Commissioner President to execute the related Budget Amendments closing or realigning the various CIP Projects increasing the FIN20 Capital Reserve by \$180,238; and authorize the Procurement Officer to sign change orders for Synthetic Turf Fields that will exceed \$1 million and contract related documents.

Motion by Commissioner Todd B. Morgan, second by Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioner Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Morgan

Not Present at Vote: Commissioner O'Connor

G. DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE - Resolution to Restrict Expenditures - COVID-19

I move to approve the resolution to restrict FY2020 expenditures due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Motion by Commissioner Todd B. Morgan, second by Commissioner Eric Colvin.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Morgan

Not Present at Vote: Commissioner O'Connor

5. COMMISSIONERS' TIME

The Commissioners provided general comments and encouraged citizens to remain vigilant and follow established guidelines during the COVID-19 virus epidemic.

6. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 10:34 a.m.

Minutes approved by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County on April 28, 2020.

JB

Julie Burch, Senior Admin Coordinator

7. PUBLIC HEARING - FY2021 RECOMMENDED BUDGET, 41770 BALDRIDGE ST., LEONARDTOWN, MD 20650

A. DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE - Six Public Hearings as related to the FY2021 Recommended Budget

Members Present

Commissioner President James R. Guy
Commissioner Eric Colvin
Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt
Commissioner Todd B. Morgan
Commissioner John E. O'Connor (Via Teleconference)
Dr. Rebecca Bridgett, County Administrator
Jeannett Cudmore, Chief Financial Officer
ALisa Casas, Communications Director, Public Information Office
Amy Carter, Video Media Producer, Public Information Officer
Sharon Ferris, Administrative Assistant to the Commissioners

Commissioner President Guy opened the public hearing for the FY2021 Recommended Budget at 6:31 p.m. in the Chesapeake Building Meeting Room, Governmental Center. Following opening remarks Commissioner President Guy introduced the other Commissioners and staff assisting with the Hearings. He asked that Jeannett Cudmore present an overview of the proposed budget before Dr. Rebecca Bridgett moderates the public hearings.

Ms. Cudmore noted there would be six public hearings tonight: Constant Yield Tax Rate; Department of Land Use and Growth Management Advertising Fee; Department of Recreation and Parks Activity Fund Fees; Department of Recreation and Parks Wicomico Golf Fees; Seventh District Volunteer Rescue Squad Tax; and the Fiscal Year 2021 Recommended Budget. She presented an overview of the \$259.8 million FY2021 Recommended Budget highlighting Revenue Sources and General Fund Expenditures. The budget exceeds the Constant Yield Tax Rate by .0119 and is funded by the County's current rate of \$.8478; an advertising fee to be paid by the applicant for the actual cost of advertising pertaining to Board of Appeals & Planning Commission meetings; an increase in various Recreation and Parks Activities; an increase in fees for Wicomico Golf Course; a rescue tax increase from 1.1 to 3.0 cents for the Seventh District Volunteer Rescue Squad. The FY2021 Recommended Budget includes County Departments funded at \$51.5 million, the Board of Education is approximately \$110 million; the Sheriff's Office \$48.9 million; College of Southern Maryland \$4.5 million; Board of Library Trustees \$2.9 million and Health Department at \$2.5M. Compensation for County employees includes the year two phase-in increase of 3.71% for non-sworn employees, a one-step merit, a 1% COLA and Top of Grade employees will receive a \$500 stipend.

Dr. Rebecca Bridgett moderated the following six public hearings.
ALisa Casas received incoming calls for citizen comments.

1. CONSTANT YIELD TAX RATE

Dr. Rebecca Bridgett opened the public hearing at 6:56 pm. There were no public comments.
The hearing closed at 6:57 pm.

2. DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS ACTIVITY FUND FEES

Dr. Rebecca Bridgett opened the public hearing at 6:57 pm. There were no public comments.
The hearing closed at 6:58 pm.

3. DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS ACTIVITY FUND FEES

Dr. Rebecca Bridgett opened the public hearing at 6:59 pm.
The Commissioners did receive one letter with 12 signatures regarding this public hearing.
The hearing closed at 7:00 pm.

4. DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS WICOMICO GOLF FEES

Dr. Rebecca Bridgett opened the public hearing at 7:00 pm. There were no public comments.
The hearing closed at 7:01 pm.

5. THE SEVENTH DISTRICT VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD TAX

Dr. Rebecca Bridgett opened the public hearing at 7:02 pm. There were no public comments.
The hearing closed at 7:03 pm.

6. FISCAL YEAR 2021 RECOMMENDED BUDGET

Dr. Rebecca Bridgett opened the public hearing at 7:03 pm.
Merrie Beth Nauman, Chair Chesapeake Charter School Alliance provided comments via video.
The Commissioners received 46 emails for hearing #6.
Comments made via teleconference:
Mary Tomasic, 18004 Shipwreck Ct., Dameron, MD 20628
William Hall, 45569 Catalina Lane, California MD, 20619
Jill Morris, 24566 Cotswold, Hollywood, MD 20636
Janice Walthour, 20493 Partins Lane, Lexington Park, MD 20653

Melissa Willey, 21514 Rominger Ct., Lexington Park, MD 20653
The hearing closed at 7:20 pm.

Dr. Bridgett closed the hearings for public comment at 7:21 pm and thanked the residents of St. Mary's County for their participation in tonight's hearings.

Commissioner President Guy provided closing remarks noting that six months ago when the budget was started revenue estimates were strong and expenditures were planned but in the last six weeks the world has changed with COVID-19. The Commissioners approved \$850,000 from the Commissioners reserves dedicated to COVID 19 and today we approved \$3 million from our fund balance and restricted spending. The Commissioners will continue to take action to keep the community safe and our government running efficiently during this emergency. On behalf of all the Commissioners, President Commissioner Guy, thanked citizens for their interest and participation in this process. He asked the Commissioners if they had any closing comments.

Commissioner Colvin thanked everyone for their participation tonight noting the Commissioners welcome all comments.

Commissioner Morgan also thanked citizens who called in and commented that the proposed budget was set before the pandemic so unfortunately things have changed with revenues. The Commissioners will have to revisit the budget estimates for revenue and expenses and CIP to make sure we have a balanced budget that will satisfy the needs of the County.

Commissioner President Guy reminded citizens that the public comment period for the six public hearings will remain open until Tuesday, April 28th. Written comments can be sent to the Commissioners by email at CSMC@stmarys.md or mail to P.O. Box 653, Leonardtown, MD 20650. The Commissioners will hold Budget Work Sessions on May 5 and 12, 2020 with a final decision on the budget is planned for May 19, 2020.

The Public Hearing closed at 7:26 pm.